INTERACTIVE RADIO FREQUENCY TAGS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Provided are interactive RF tags. These tags are responsive to external stimuli to change state. Interactive radio frequency tags in accordance with the present invention preferably include a passive radio frequency transponder, having an antenna, an interface for receiving an external stimulus, and one or more integrated circuits responsive to the external stimulus received at the interface to change the state of the transponder. The nature of the interface and the corresponding external stimuli, as well as the change of state may vary substantially while remaining consistent with this inventive concept. For example, the tags may include buttons which may be pushed to provide the external stimulus required to produce a change of state. Another type of interactive RF tag is a "sensor tag" which changes state in response to a particular environmental stimulus. For example, if a tag is exposed to light or heat that reaches a given threshold, an alternate memory location containing information reflecting this fact is accessed when the tag is polled by a reader. In addition, either of these "button" or "sensor" features may be combined with an output feature which visually, audibly, tactilely or otherwise signals the state or change of state of an RF tag, or the tag may be designed to produce an output in response to the external stimulus of the RF signal received at the tag's antenna.